

UCLA Faculty Association

News and opinion from Dan Mitchell since 2009

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Sunday, October 5, 2025

Straws in the Wind - Part 121

From the [Texas Tribune](#): *In a first for Texas higher education, the Texas Tech University System has ordered faculty across its five universities to limit classroom discussion of transgender and nonbinary identities, but gave little guidance on how academic endeavors or instruction should proceed. The vague directive rattled Texas Tech students and professors, many of whom expressed fear that they will face academic or professional repercussions for pushing back. Free speech groups quickly characterized the unclear limits as unconstitutional censorship. And LGBTQ+ advocates said the move will only further marginalize already-vulnerable trans and nonbinary students and faculty...*



Texas Tech Chancellor Tedd Mitchell late Thursday said that when faculty are acting as employees and instructors, they must follow President Donald Trump's executive order recognizing only male and female genders as assigned at birth, Gov. Greg Abbott's letter directing state agencies to "reject woke gender ideologies" and House Bill 229 requiring a strict binary definition of gender for the collection of vital statistics...

Full story at <https://www.texastribune.org/2025/09/26/texas-tech-university-system-transgender-identity-restrictions/>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: [academic freedom](#), [politics](#), [Texas Tech U](#)

Saturday, October 4, 2025

They must be somewhere

We're all looking for that 28-page letter from the Dept. of Justice with various demands for UCLA that the [LA Times](#) has seen.

We can now add to that the 10-point memo that has been reported in various news sources ([Washington Post](#), [NY Times](#), [Wall St. Journal](#)) from the Dept. of Education to nine universities on conditions for advantageous access to federal funds. No one else seems to have the actual memo. We seem to be in a period where things can be described but not seen.

From [Inside Higher Ed](#):



...The proposal seeks an agreement with nine institutions that are being asked to commit to a 10-point memo referred to as the "Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher Education."

Among the various conditions, institutions are reportedly being asked to:

- Ban consideration of race or sex in hiring and admissions processes
- Freeze tuition for a five-year period
- Limit international undergraduate enrollment to 15 percent of the student body
- Commit to institutional neutrality
- Require applicants to take standardized tests, such as the SAT or ACT
- Clamp down on grade inflation
- Ensure a "vibrant marketplace of ideas on campus"
- Restrict employees from expressing political views on behalf of the institution
- Shut down departments that "punish, belittle" or "spark violence against conservative ideas"
- Anonymously poll students and employees on compact compliance and publish the results

The Council of UC Faculty Associations

- Letter from AAUP to UC Objecting to Trellix
- Judge rules Trump demands of UCLA must be made public
- Faculty are fighting back
- Faculty Lawsuit Demands Public Access to Trump Administration's Settlement Demands on University of California
- Coalition of UC unions condemns Trump's attacks on the UC and the California economy

Remaking the University

- [Liner Note 40. AI's Two Pathways: 2025 Has Discredited Booster Assumptions of 2024](#) - 10/11/2025
- [Liner Note 39. Attack Theory for Education](#) - 9/28/2025
- [Liner Note 38. The University of California's Charlie Kirk Tribute Act](#) - 9/16/2025

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Another requirement mandates that signatories “deploy their endowments to the public good,” such as by not charging tuition to students “pursuing hard science programs (with exceptions, as desired, for families of substantial means)” for universities with more than \$2 million per undergraduate student in endowment assets. Universities would also be required to post more details about graduates’ earnings and refund tuition to those who drop out in their first semester...

Institutions reportedly invited to join are: Brown University, Dartmouth College, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the University of Arizona, the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Southern California, University of Texas at Austin, the University of Virginia and Vanderbilt University...

Full story at <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/government/science-research-policy/2025/10/02/white-house-floats-compact-preferential>.

And then there's this:



Source: <https://x.com/CAGovernor/status/1973848963662172242>.

Or direct to <https://ia800103.us.archive.org/6/items/united-we-can-yes-on-50-united-we-can-10-3-2025/newsom%2010-3-2025%20universities%20should%20reject%20Trump%20offer.mp4>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:30 AM](#) No comments:

Labels: [academic freedom](#), [Brown University](#), [Dartmouth](#), [MIT](#), [politics](#), [public funding](#), [U of Arizona](#), [U of Pennsylvania](#), [U of Texas](#), [U of Virginia](#), [USC](#), [Vanderbilt U](#)

Straws in the Wind - Part 120

From the [Daily Pennsylvanian](#): According to data from *United States Citizenship and Immigration Services* and an analysis by *The Daily Pennsylvanian*, Penn ranked first among all Ivy League universities as an employer of H-1B visa beneficiaries. Under a proclamation made by 1968 Wharton graduate and President Donald Trump last week, each new H-1B petition will be subject to a \$100,000 fee.

In 2025, the University secured 111 new approvals, which could cause Penn to face more than \$11 million in fees each year if it maintains similar levels of sponsorship. Penn sponsored an average of 269 H-1B visas annually — including both new applicants and renewals — between 2020 and 2025. The University had 227 approved H-1B employees in 2025...

H-1B visas are for employees with “highly specialized” knowledge and education who are able to work temporarily in the United States. The visas last for three years but can be renewed for a period of up to six years... In 2025, Penn employed more H-1B beneficiaries than any other Ivy League university.



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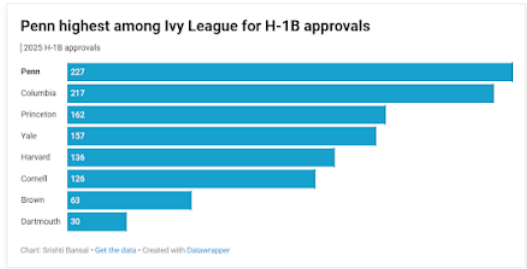
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Full story at <https://www.thedp.com/article/2025/09/penn-h1b-visa-impacts-trump-employment>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:20 AM](#) No comments: 

Labels: [Brown University](#), [Columbia](#), [Cornell](#), [Dartmouth](#), [diversity](#), [Harvard](#), [politics](#), [Princeton U](#), [U of Pennsylvania](#), [Yale](#)

The Alternative Way to Read the Blog

As blog readers will know, we save the blog posts on a quarterly basis as pdf files which can be downloaded or read using a reader that is provided.

The third quarter of 2025 is available at:

<https://archive.org/details/july-31-24-2025>

Of course, in pdf format, you won't see video or animated gifs.

Files on archive.org go back all the way to the beginning of the blog in 2009. However, for many years, we were able to save the files in a book format which, unfortunately, is no longer available.



Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:10 AM](#) No comments: 

Labels: [miscellaneous](#)

Friday, October 3, 2025

Update on Vote

We noted in an earlier post that the Senate seemed slow in getting the results of a vote at the special meeting of Sept. 30, particularly since the vote was taken by electronic means. The vote was on whether the powers-that-be should release the text of the demand letter from the US Dept. of Justice that was leaked to the [LA Times](#).

While you probably could guess what the results were, here is the official tally from an email late this morning:

September 30, 2025, Special Legislative Assembly Meeting

Notification of Actions

1. Resolution to Request the Department of Justice Letter

*Legislative Assembly members voted via the Academic Senate Data Management System on the Resolution to Request the Department of Justice Letter. The Legislative Assembly received a total of 116 votes cast: **116 Approve, 0 Oppose**. This Resolution required a majority of votes cast by present members to be approved. [AIPSC (2nd ed.) 5.1]. All eligible votes cast (100%) were to Approve this Resolution.*

===

Here's the thing. If the letter had not been leaked, perhaps there would be a justification in not disclosing it while discussions with the feds continued. However, it was leaked. And the likely source was someone either at UCLA, UCOP, or maybe the Regents, i.e., someone in the UC/UCLA community with access to the letter. It seems unlikely that the leak came from DOJ, since the [LA Times](#) article characterized the letter as having grammatical and factual errors, not a fine piece of work DOJ would want to brag about in public.

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 77

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If at first...

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Update on Vote

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Apparently, Public Records Act requests for the letter have been rejected on the grounds that it would be improper to provide it. That's a funny argument from an organization which most was the source of the leak.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 1:55 PM No comments: 

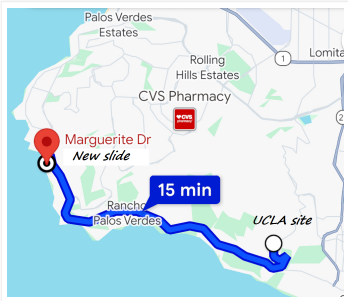
Labels: [politics](#)

Nothing to See Here

As blog readers will know, UCLA spent \$80 million back in 2022 to buy the campus of a defunct Catholic college in Palos Verdes with great ocean views. It was said that this purchase was somehow related to pressures from the legislature to increase student enrollment. The former college, however, had an enrollment of only a few hundred. And the Palos Verdes site is hard to reach from Westwood.

Apart from those issues, Palos Verdes has had well-publicized problems of ground movement at a nearby location known as Portuguese Bend, which we have highlighted on this blog.

Now, there seems to be another slide. From [LAist](#):



Rancho Palos Verdes officials say 400 feet of coastal bluff that fell toward the ocean on Saturday night is not related to the land movement that's been ripping part of the city apart for years. The bluff dropped approximately 60 feet toward the ocean. But Megan Barnes, a spokesperson for the city, told LAist there was no damage to public property, no injuries and no structural damage to the four homes affected. There is significant

soil damage to their backyards, though.

The cause of the incident on Marguerite Drive is still being investigated, she added...

Full story at <https://laist.com/news/climate-environment/rancho-palos-verdes-coastal-bluff-landslide-ocean>.

The Good News is that the new slide is about 8 miles from the UCLA site, whereas the old slide was about 3 miles away. The Bad News is that the entire coastal area seems to be unsteady. It's interesting that city officials seem anxious to say that the new slide is unrelated to the old one lest someone think poorly of local real estate. (I think Ibsen wrote a play about that approach to civic affairs.) However, the idea that unrelated slides can pop up anywhere along the coast is not reassuring. But what do I know?



Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments: 

Labels: [UCLA](#)

Straws in the Wind - Part 119

From the [Emory Wheel](#): *In accordance with Emory University's decision to end Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) programs, the Emory Writing Center (EWC) removed all DEI language and programming from its website on Sept. 4, echoing a broader national trend. Currently, academic institutions across the country are reevaluating their commitments to DEI amid federal opposition to these programs. The EWC is a free service for a majority of Emory students as well as staff and faculty, offering guidance and support to writers. Until the beginning of this school year, its website and hiring page included DEI-focused statements. Now, those statements are gone, including a statement about the EWC's commitment to anti-racism, equity and inclusion.*

According to the EWC Director and Associate Teaching Professor Melissa Yang, concerns first arose regarding the EWC's hiring practices in January



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Contributors

- [California Policy Issues](#)
- [Toby Higbie](#)
- [UCLA Faculty Association](#)

2025 when U.S. President Donald Trump took office and began issuing statements and executive orders in opposition to DEI. According to Yang, when the EWC hired staffers, it traditionally prioritized candidates who had experience with topics including anti-racism, equity and justice, which now, the University worries may not align with government policies. Yang said that in a University deans meeting she attended in May 2025, the EWC's website was flagged as "risky," which led to changes in the equity statement...

Full story <https://www.emorywheel.com/article/2025/09/emory-writing-center-removes-dei-from-its-website-echoing-university-wide-trend>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:20 AM](#) No comments: 

Labels: [diversity](#), [Emory](#), [politics](#)

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